

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 11377 272242Z

62

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6331

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E O 11652 NA

TAGS ETRD CO

SUBJ: USG/GOC BILATERAL TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

REF STATE 280463 AND PREVIOUS

1. MIN OF DEVELOPMENT INFORMED AMB TODAY THAT VERY REGRETFULLY GOC WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO CARRY OUT DEFINITIVE TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS JAN 27. GOC NOW PROPOSES EITHER WEEK OF MAR 24 OR MAR 31 AS EARLIEST THEY CAN BE READY. THIS WAS DECISION REACHED AFTER LONG MEETING OF GOC'S COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE (OVER WHICH MIN PRESIDES). MIN SAID THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF WORK THAT HAD TO BE DONE INTERNALLY AND "OTHER CONSULTATIONS." RECOGNIZING THE DIFFICULTY OF OUR SCHEDULE AND THE FACT THAT JAN 27 WAS PROPOSED EARLIER BY GOC, MIN PROPOSED A FORMULA WHEREBY PRELIMINARY CONVERSATIONS "AT THE TECH LEVEL" MIGHT TAKE PLACE THE WEEK OF JAN 27 AD REFERENDUM TO FINAL DECISIONS ON THE MARCH DATE. IN ANSWER TO THE AMB'S SPECIFIC QUESTION, THE MIN SAID THAT THE GOC WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO MAKE FINAL DECISIONS AT THE END OF JAN.

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 11377 272242Z

2. THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOME LEGITIMATE CONFUSION BETWEEN

THE MINISTRIES OF DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE JAN 27 COUNTER-PROPOSAL. THE MIN'S SUGGESTION FOR "PRELIMINARY TALKS" ON JAN 27 IS BASICALLY AN EFFORT TO MAKE US FEEL BETTER ABOUT CHANGES WE HAD MADE IN OUR SCHEDULE TO MEET THAT DATE. THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY WILL NOT BE READY TO NEGOTIATE DEFINITELY BEFORE THE END OF MARCH APPEARS TO BE A FIRM DECISION BY THE GOC AND WE DOUBT SERIOUSLY THAT THEY CAN BE PERSUADED TO CHANGE THEIR MIND. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE FIRM IN THEIR OFFER FOR MARCH 24.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT CAUSED THE DECISION TO DELAY UNTIL MARCH. THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY SOME INTERNAL CONFUSION. UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO THE FELT NEED TO CONSULT OTHER COUNTRIES AND COORDINATE POSITIONS (PORT AU PRINCE 2490) IS A MAJOR REASON.

4. WE DO NOT KNOW IF THERE IS ANY UTILITY IN THE "TWO-STEP" FORMULA OF PRELIMINARY TECH TALKS AND FINAL NEGOTIATIONS SEVERAL WEEKS LATER. IF DEPT BELIEVES THIS IS USEFUL, IT CAN BE PINNED DOWN. IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE THE MARCH 24 OFFER IS FIRM AND WE RECOMMEND AT LEAST THAT WE ACCEPT THAT DATE FOR FINAL NEGOTIATIONS. VAKY

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